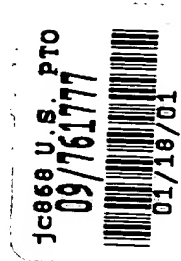


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoji MATSUDA
Title: IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM
Appl. No.: Not yet assigned
Filing Date: January 18, 2001
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: Not yet assigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed documents is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS

Document A5 discloses a designating means for designating an external device to which digital image signals are outputted and a master-servant relationship designating means for designating the master-servant relationship with the external device. Applicant notes that document A1 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A5.

Document A6 discloses a method wherein image signals from a plurality of scanners are outputted to one printer.

Document A7 discloses a method wherein one of several image inputting devices is selected and controlled through a network, and an image signal is input by the selected image inputting device. Applicant notes that documents A2 and A3 are U.S. patent counterparts to document A7.

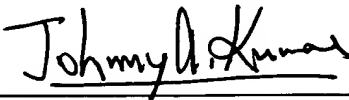
Document A8 discloses a method wherein an external device to be used is designated, and a result of the designation is displayed. Applicant notes that document A4 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A8.

English translations of documents A5-A8 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A5-A8.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

January 18, 2001
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Johnny A. Kumar
Reg. No. 34,649

FOLEY & LARDNER
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007-5109
Tel: (202) 672-5300